

# Understanding Your Authority as a Believer

## **Objectives of this course**

1. To have a revelation of the concept of authority
2. To understand the difference between power and authority
3. To understand the authority of Christ
4. To know your delegated authority as a believer
5. To learn to rule and reign with Christ

## **Content of sessions**

1. Understanding authority
2. Getting a “revelation” of authority
3. The battle for authority
4. How to rule and reign with Christ in your world

# 1

## UNDERSTANDING AUTHORITY

### AUTHORITY MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

**Mark 1:21-28** *They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup>The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. <sup>23</sup>Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, <sup>24</sup>"What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are the Holy One of God!" <sup>25</sup>"Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" <sup>26</sup>The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. <sup>27</sup>The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him." <sup>28</sup>News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee*

### RIGHTEOUS AUTHORITY RELEASES BLESSING TO ALL.

**Pro 29:2** *When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.*

### UNDERSTANDING "AUTHORITY" is central to the great commission.

**Matt 28:18-19** *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...*

Remember, ALL the authority belongs to Him. The ONLY authority you have is His delegated authority.

You will not fulfil your calling or Christ's commission without a clear revelation/understanding of your authority as a believer.

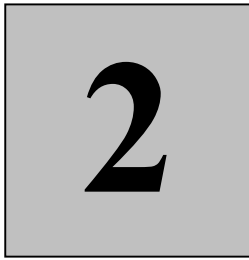
### YOUR AUTHORITY WILL BE CHALLENGED: Who gave you this authority?

**Luke 20:1-2** *One day as he was teaching the people in the temple courts and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the elders, came up to him. <sup>2</sup>"Tell us by what authority you are doing these things," they said. "Who gave you this authority?"*

You need to be clear about the source and extent of your authority

### AN EXAMPLE OF HOW NOT TO MINISTER! The seven sons of Sceva

**Acts 19:15-17** *"...And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" <sup>16</sup>Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.*



## GETTING A “REVELATION” OF AUTHORITY

**Before we start:** Each student to read Ephesians 1:15 to 2:10 in one sitting, and reflect on the passage for a few minutes before the lecture starts, praying: Lord, help me to “see” You in all your fullness and glory today.

### A REVELATION OF “THE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING”

**Eph 2:10** *“We are His workmanship created for good works in Christ...”*

### A REVELATION OF “YOUR INHERITANCE AS A SAINT”

**Gal 4:7** *Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

**A revelation of “the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe.”**

- This “power” in Greek is “Dunamis” = the “inherent power”
- This power was demonstrated to us through the resurrection of Christ.

### A REVELATION OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN “POWER” AND “AUTHORITY”

**Luke 10:19** *Behold I give you ..... (EXOUSIA = Ruling Power) to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over ALL the ..... (DUNAMIS = Inherent Power) of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means harm you.*

#### **Power is:**

Greek: *Dunamis*

Def: “Inherent power;” “The ability to act;” “Having the might/efficiency/ability to do something”

The source of our power is Pentecost: Acts 1:8 *“You will receive power (Dunamis) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...”*

#### **Authority is:**

Greek: *Exousia*

Def: “Ruling power;” “Being authorised to act;” “Having the right to do something”

The source of our authority is the delegated authority of Christ, which He regained from the devil through Calvary’s victory.

### A REVELATION OF THE POSITION OF THE RISEN CHRIST, which is His authority

**Eph 1:20-23** *...and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup>And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*



## **A REVELATION OF YOUR “RAISED UP TOGETHER WITH HIM” POSITION IN CHRIST.**

*Eph 2:6 God ...raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*

## **A REVELATION OF THE DISCIPLES MANDATE**

- To make disciples: **Matt 28:18-19** ... *All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go THEREFORE ...*
- To be Christ's ambassadors: **2 Cor 5:20** *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

## **A REVELATION OF UNDERSTANDING THE DEVIL'S AUTHORITY after the fall and until Calvary**

*Luke 4:5-7 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. <sup>7</sup> Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.*

Notice the devil's claim:

- He claims that he has the authority over the kingdoms of the world.
- He claims that this authority "was delivered" to him
- He claims that he can delegate that authority "to whomever he wishes"

Notice that Jesus does not refute these claims...but rejects the temptation.

We need to understand:

- God's original plan for ruling the kingdoms of this world.
- How was the authority "delivered" to the devil?
- What happened so that Jesus would later declare: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth..."

## **BE VERY CLEAR ABOUT WHY JESUS CAME TO EARTH**

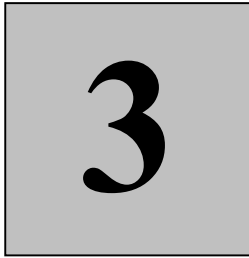
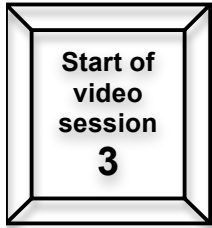
*Heb 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil*

**1 John 3:8** ... *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*

Jesus came "as a man" to "destroy the devil and his works," which include:

1. Sin Rom 8:2; 2 Cor 5:21
2. Sickness Isa 53:1-5; Matt 8:16-17; 1 Pet 2:24
3. Poverty 2 Cor 8:9; Deut 8:18; Mal 3:8-12
4. Demons Eph 1:21-22
5. Death Rom 5:12,18; Rev 1:18

If you cannot discern between "good and evil" you will not be able to exercise your delegated authority.



# THE BATTLE FOR AUTHORITY

## THE ORIGINAL PLAN FOR ADAM & EVE

### Gen 1:26-28

1. Created in God's image (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).
2. Given rulership over the earth, to "subdue" it.
3. Made to be fruitful and multiply.
4. Given ..... over every other creature.

### Gen 2:15

5. Given stewardship to guard, protect, and cultivate the earth. Ps 8:4-6
6. Little lower than the ..... (Hebrew: "Elohim")
7. Given glory, honour and dominion.
8. All things put "under his feet".

Man's responsibility was awesome: To have "Dominion" = Heb: "radah" = to reign.

## TO HAVE AUTHORITY YOU MUST BE UNDER AUTHORITY

**Matthew 8:5 -10** *When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. <sup>6</sup>"Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering." <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him."*

<sup>8</sup>*The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup>For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

<sup>10</sup>*When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."*

## WHAT HAPPENED WHEN ADAM AND EVE SINNED?

1. Adam "delivered the authority" to satan when he chose to submit to satan's word rather than to Gods word. Luke 4:5
2. Adam died spiritually. Gen 2:17; Rom 5:12; Eph 2:1-5
3. Adam lost true revelation knowledge of God when the 5 senses became dominant. Gen 3:7; Eph 2:1-5; Rom 8:6
4. Adam became self-conscious and ashamed as his eyes were opened. Gen: 3:7
5. Adam became fearful and hid from God. Gen 3:8
6. He who had been crowned lord of the earth became a coward and a liar Gen 3:16
7. Man was alienated from God; fallen from His presence with a darkened conscience. Isa: 59:2

## **GOD'S RESPONSE: "Adam, where are you?"**

It was not Adam who searched for God, but God for Adam. Gen: 3:8-9,15

God covered Adam & Eve's sin (Gen 3:21), and would fulfil this work through Christ.

God's love wanted to redeem man, but God's ..... demanded that the sin had to be dealt with. ENTER JESUS!

John 3:16; Gal 4:4

## **HOW JESUS IDENTIFIED WITH MAN AND OVERCOME SATAN IN ORDER TO REGAIN "ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH"**

1. Jesus came as a man (Phil 2:5-8) It was man who had lost his authority therefore it had to be a man to regain it. This "challenger" would have to successfully challenge and cancel satan's legal claims.

2. Jesus remained under the Father's authority at all times.

**John 12:49** *For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command...Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.*

3. Jesus was not subject to satan in anything.

4. Jesus fulfilled all of the law.

5. Jesus was tempted, yet did not sin. Heb 2:18; 4:15; Matt 4

Compare Jesus' wilderness temptations to Eve's temptations in the Garden.

6. Jesus was "made sin" for us.

**2 Cor 5:21** *He became sin for us...*

7. Jesus paid the penalty of sin through His death on the cross

**Rom 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death...*

8. Jesus completely destroyed/disarmed/conquered satan and his works on the cross.

**Heb 2:14** *...so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil.*

**Col 2:13-15** *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

**Phil 2:8-11** *And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

## **JESUS OVERCAME THE “STRONG MAN’S HOUSE” -**

**Luke 11:21-22** *When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. <sup>22</sup>But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armour in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.*

Satan is the "strong man", but Jesus is the "Stronger Man", who overtakes him and strips him of all his armour of protection, and then divides the “spoils” of His victory back to His disciples.

## **JESUS MADE US MORE THAN CONQUERORS**

Jesus is the Conqueror and He has made us “more than conquerors.”

Rom 8:37

## **JESUS HAS GIVEN HIS DISCIPLES “POWER OF ATTORNEY” or the “legal right” to use His Name:**

**John 16:23-24;** *In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>24</sup>Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.*

**Mark 16:17-18** *And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; <sup>18</sup>they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.*

## **BELIEVERS ARE TO “REIGN AS KINGS IN LIFE” through Christ:**

**Rom 5:17** *For if by the trespass of the one man (Adam), death reigned through that one man, HOW MUCH MORE will those who receive the abundance of God's grace and the gift of righteousness **REIGN AS KINGS IN LIFE THROUGH THE ONE MAN, JESUS CHRIST***



## HOW TO RULE AND REIGN WITH CHRIST IN YOUR WORLD

from **EPHESIANS 6:10 – 19** (Amplified Bible)

### GROW IN THE LORDS STRENGTH

<sup>10</sup> *Finally/ In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides].*

### LIVE FULLY PREPARED

<sup>11</sup> *Put on God's whole armour [the armour of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies],...*

**1 Peter 5:8-9** *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, standing firm in the faith....*

### TAKE A STAND AGAINST THE DEVILS SCHEMES

<sup>11</sup> *... that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil.*

**James 4:7** *Submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

### RECOGNISE THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE

<sup>12</sup> *For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere.*

**2 Cor 10:3-6** *...the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God...*

### STAND YOUR GROUND...STAND

<sup>13</sup> *...that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place]. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore [hold your ground], ...*



## **KNOW GODS ARMOUR AND WEAR IT**

<sup>13</sup>*Therefore put on God's complete armour,...*<sup>14</sup>*...having tightened the belt of truth around your loins and having put on the breastplate of integrity and of moral rectitude and right standing with God,*<sup>15</sup> *And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace.*

<sup>16</sup>*Lift up over all the [covering] shield of saving faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked [one].*<sup>17</sup>*And take the helmet of salvation and...*

## **DEVELOP YOUR "IT IS WRITTEN" ABILITY.**

<sup>17</sup>*...the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God.*

## **PRAY AND "INTERCEDE" EFFECTIVELY**

<sup>18</sup>*Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people).*

## **KEEP THE GOOD NEWS THE MAIN OBJECTIVE**

<sup>19</sup>*And [pray] also for me, that [freedom of] utterance may be given me, that I may open my mouth to proclaim boldly the mystery of the good news (the Gospel).*

## **CONCLUSION:**

Jesus Christ has completely conquered satan and all his works, and has delegated His authority to His followers to rule and reign till He returns to finally establish His Kingdom for eternity.

You have authority as a believer – NOW GO INTO ALL WORLD AND MAKE DISCIPLES...